

REMARKS

This application was filed with 17 claims. Claim 2 was previously cancelled. Claims 18 – 24 were previously added by amendment. Claims 1, 3 – 15 and 17 – 24 are currently allowed. Claim 16 is currently rejected. Therefore, Claims 1 and 3 – 24 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the application based on the pending claims and on the arguments submitted below is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith 2002/0132947 ("Smith"). Applicant notes that Smith was published on September 19, 2002 and is not a proper basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of the February 11, 2002 filing date of the Application.

The rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting the telephonic interview of March 30, 2005. The interview participants included Examiner M. Jones and Attorney H. Bayless, counsel for the Applicant. During the interview Claim 16 was discussed in view of the Smith reference cited as the basis of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Examiner agreed that Smith is not a proper basis for rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of the February 11, 2002 filing date of the Application and Smith's publication date of September 19, 2002. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Examiner further agreed that Claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1, 3 – 15 and 17 – 24 are allowed over the prior art of record. The Applicant also thanks the Examiner for agreeing to withdraw the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and for indicating that Claim 16 is allowable over the prior art of record. All pending claims are either allowed or allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Petition to Extend Time for Response

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions the Commissioner to extend the time for responding to the December 28, 2004, Office Action for 1 month from March 28, 2005, to April 28, 2005. Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge the 1 month extension fee in the amount of \$60 to the Deposit Account Number 23-0035.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 23-0035.

Respectfully submitted,


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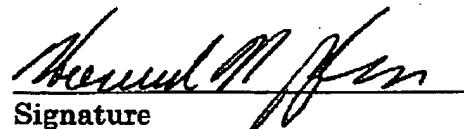
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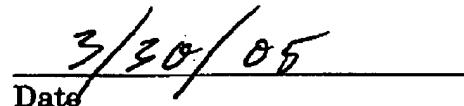
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on March 30, 2005.

Howard H. Bayless


Signature

Registration Number 51,245


Date